Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 MCT-01 IO-13 TRSE-00 EURE-00 /072 W

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PR 091300Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9270

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

CONFIDENTIAL MADRID 1778

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS, SP

SUBJECT: TWO ETA MEMBERS KILLED IN SHOOT-OUT

1. IN A SHOOT-OUT AT A ROAD BLOCK IN THE PROVINCE OF GUIPUZCOA YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, GUARDIA CIVIL ELEMENTS REPORTEDLY MACHINE-GUNNED TO DEATH TWO MEMBERS OF ETA'S POLITICAL-MILITARY WING AND SLIGHTLY WOUNDED A THIRD, WHO WAS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. ACCORDING TO THE OFFICIAL COMMUNIQUE, ONE OF THE THREE ETA MILITANTS PULLED OUT A PISTOL AND EMPTIED IT AT THE CIVIL GUARD WHO HAD STOPPED THEIR CAR AND DEMANDED THEIR IDENTIFICATION. THE CIVIL GUARD, WHO WAS NOT HIT, THEN OPENED UP ON THE AUTOMOBILE WITH THE REPORTED RESULT.

2. RECENTLY APPOINTED GUIPUZCOA CIVIL GOVERNOR BELLOCH, WHO CONFIDENTIAL

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ALREADY HAS ATTAINED A REPUTATION FOR BEING UNUSUALLY SYMPATHETIC TO BASQUE GRIEVANCES, REPORTEDLY TOLD THE PRESS LAST NIGHT THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE EFFECT OF SUCH ACTS ON THE COURSE OF POLITICAL RECONCILIATION, A WELL-FOUNDED CONCERN, SINCE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE LIKELY TO ACCOMPANY THE INTERMENT OF THE TWO SLAIN MILITANTS.

3. FOR THE RECORD, THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME CONFUSION AS TO WHETHER THE THREE ETA MEMBERS INVOLVED IN THE SHOOT-OUT WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE RADICAL ETA "MILITARY" WING OR THE LESS MILITANT "POLITICAL-MILITARY" WING. USUALLY ACCURATE "EL PAIS" MAKES THE FORMER CATEGORIZATION, WHILE THE REST OF THE MORNING PRESS HEWS TO THE LATTER. AMCONSUL BILBAO ADVISES, HOWEVER, THAT THE BILBAO PRESS ALSO IS IDENTIFYING THE THREE AS MEMBERS OF THE "POLITICAL-MILITARY" WING, WHICH HAS MAINTAINED A TACIT TRUCE WITH THE GOS IN RECENT MONTHS. EATON

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a

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Subject: TWO ETA MEMBERS KILLED IN SHOOT-OUT

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